

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed March 14, 2006. Claims 13-32 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer due to an election/restriction requirement. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 11 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants have added Claims 33 and 34 and respectfully submit that the claims are supported by the specification and add no new matter. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0145773 by Satoru Tanaka et al. ("*Tanaka*").

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka as applied to Claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,725 issued to Marko Zgonik ("*Zgonik*").

Tanaka discloses a hologram recording method and an optical information recording and reproducing apparatus utilizing the holographic memory. A rotatable plane mirror is arranged on an opposite side of a recording medium from a recording reference light beam. (Paragraph 82). At a reproducing time, the plane mirror is fixed such that the mirror is opposed to the recording reference light beam passing through the recording medium and at a recording time, the plane mirror is rotated such that the recording reference light beam is guided to a light absorber. (Paragraph 82).

Zgonik discloses a storage method and system for storing mutually non-overlapping volume holograms.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a system comprising "a reference mirror located at a waist of the reference beam such that the reference mirror replaces a reference objective on a reference arm."

Claim 8, as amended, recites a method comprising the step of "reflecting the portion of the reference beam from a reference mirror located at the waist of the reference beam, the reference mirror replacing a reference objective on a reference arm."

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference fails to disclose every element of Applicants' invention as amended. *Tanaka* fails to teach at least a direct-to-digital holography system comprising "a reference mirror located at a waist of the reference beam such that the reference mirror replaces a reference objective on a reference arm," as recited by amended Claim 1. Additionally, *Tanaka* fails to teach a method for acquiring a complex image in a direct-to-digital holography system including the step of "reflecting the portion of the reference beam from a reference mirror located at the waist of the reference beam, the reference mirror replacing a reference objective on a reference arm," as recited by amended Claim 8. The cited reference, therefore, fails to disclose the recited limitations and cannot render obvious Claims 1 and 8.

Given that Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 10-12, 33 and 34 depend from Claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-7, 10-12, 33 and 34 are allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1-8, 10-12, 33 and 34.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that the Examiner made no indication that the References submitted with Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed on September 12, 2003, had been considered in the Office Action mailed March 14, 2006. Applicants respectfully request confirmation of the consideration of the References. Applicants attach a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was attached to the Office Action mailed March 14, 2006, and respectfully request that the Examiner place his initials next to the References if citation is to be considered or draw a line through the citation if the citation is not to be considered.

Applicants would also like to bring to the Examiner's attention that the Examiner made no indication that Reference "P" submitted with Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed on April 2, 2004, had been considered in the Office Action mailed March 14, 2006. Applicants respectfully request confirmation of the consideration of Reference "P". Applicants attach a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was attached to the Office Action mailed March 14, 2006, and respectfully request that the Examiner place his initials next to Reference "P" if citation is to be considered or draw a line through the citation if the citation is not to be considered.

CONCLUSION

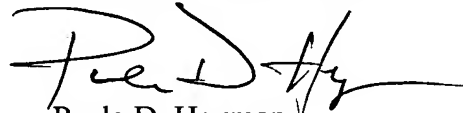
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the application. Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and full allowance of Claims 1-8, 10-12, 33 and 34, as amended.

Applicants enclose a Petition for One Month Extension of Time along with a check in the amount of \$60 for the Extension Fee. Applicants believe no additional fees are due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2581.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 14, 2006

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Enclosures: 1) Copy of PTO 1449 Forms filed with IDS' on 9/12/03 and 4/2/04.